Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02011 261856Z ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SCS-03 SY-05 FAA-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 L-03 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 /077 W

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R 261244Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0531

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, PORS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION OF AMCITS INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS

REF: STATE 197921

1. AFTER MAKING APPROPRIATE INQUIRES, EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED THAT POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH WOULD BE PROPER GOB AGENCY TO CONTACT SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AMCITS WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN HIJACKING INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS, THE THREE AIRLINES OPERATING IN BOTSWANA (AIR BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS AND AIR ZAMBIA) DO NOT RECORD NATIONALITY OF PASSENGERS AT BOARDING. HOWEVER, PASSENGERS ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS COMPLETE BOTSWANA DEPARTURE FORMS WHICH INCLUDE NATIONALITY AND PASSPORT DATA. POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH DEPUTY CHIEF HIRSCHFELD TOLD US THAT, IN EVENT OF HIJACKING, DEPARTURE RECORDS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US THROUGH SPECIAL BRANCH. IN HIJACKING INVOLVING DOMESTIC FLIGHT, SPECIAL BRANCH WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NAMES, BUT NOT NECESSARILY NATIONALITIES, OF PASSENGERS.

2. HIRSCHFELD ALSO TOLD US THAT GOB HAS SET UP INTERNAL COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL AIR SECURITY. AS SPECIAL BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE, HIRSCHFELD WILL CHAIR COMMITTEE ON WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GABORO 02011 261856Z

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO SIT. OTHER INTERESTED GOB AGENCIES WILL TAKE PART AT INVITATION OF POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH.

3. WE ARE PREPARING DUTY OFFICER INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD BE USED SHOULD HIJACKING OCCUR DURING NON-DUTY HOURS AND WILL FORWARD COPY OF INSTRUCTIONS TO DEPART-

MENT PER PA	RA 3 REFTEL
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